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efficiency until at the present time it is utterly inadequate; so that, even when the relief agencies of this country and of the relatively fortunate nations of Europe are in full operation, it will be difficult to move the supplies into the stricken areas. Allowing for the time necessary to move supplies from America, from which most of the relief probably will go; then allowing time to move it across Europe and into the famine districts, it is likely that winter will have overtaken many of the suffering people before material aid shall have been rendered. In that situation it is almost impossible to escape the conclusion that at the best many thousands, if not millions, of people will slowly die terrible deaths. Indeed, it is the judgment of some of those who have followed the Russian situation that sufficient relief cannot be mustered, transported, and distributed in time to save the adults who are threatened with starvation. Those who hold this view think that the best that can be done is to save the babies and children. Mr. Hoover seems to have had some such thought as this in his mind when he sent his statement to Gorky, for he spoke especially of the willingness of the Relief Administration to feed a million babies.

Into that dreadful prospect is injected the scourge of cholera and typhus. Late dispatches received in Washington quote the *Moscow Izvestia*, a presumably reliable Soviet organ, as stating in July that there were in the whole of Russia in the first six months of this year nearly forty-eight thousand cases of cholera, of which more than half appeared in June. It is believed by some familiar with conditions in Russia that these figures are conservative, since the lack of communication in the outlying districts may have made it impossible for the authorities to receive advices of all cases. And the indications seem to be that it will be extremely difficult to check the spread of the disease, owing to the lack of quarantine facilities and the mass migrations of peasants fleeing from their farms in search of food.

The bare statement of such facts as these dictates the duty of all the American people. It is immaterial whether the Soviet Government is good or bad; the fact that many thousands of human beings are at the point of wholesale death must cause every American to give whatever aid he can to those responsible relief agencies which are at work.

BROTHERS UNDER THE SKIN

SOME DAYS ago Senator France, of Maryland, who has been investigating conditions in Russia, appeared in Riga, accompanied by Mrs. Marguerite E. Harrison, of Baltimore, a newspaper correspondent who had been in prison in Russia for many months, charged

with being a spy. Senator France had procured the release of Mrs. Harrison by the Soviet authorities in advance of the release of other American prisoners held in Russia.

And now comes the surprising thing! Mrs. Harrison, out of Russia and free to tell her experiences, had no unkind word for the individual Russian. So far as the dispatches which have come from Riga and Berlin show, Mrs. Harrison's accounts of the attitude toward her of the Russians with whom she came into contact indicate that they were kindly men. She tells of their politeness and great courtesy during the most rigid examinations made of her. The Russian inquisitors even offered her tea in friendly, social way. And during her imprisonment they seem to have granted her as much consideration and comfort as could have been expected under all the circumstances prevailing in that land—more, in fact, than her friends in America thought likely.

All of this need not affect one's previous judgment, one way or the other, as to the methods by which the Soviets acquired control of Russia, or the methods by which they have maintained that control, or the effects of that control upon the many millions of Russian people. But this case of Mrs. Harrison does serve to remind us that, however far from accepted standards a great nation may wander and whatever one may think of the results of that wandering, it is still true that the ordinary human virtues may be found among most of the people; and that in turn serves to remind us that the Russian people still possess qualities that will make them worthy neighbors of other civilized peoples and worthy citizens of the world when the days of their political and governmental unhappiness shall have passed.

Undoubtedly the story of Mrs. Harrison, so far as we have it, will soften the attitude of the American people toward the Russian masses and will revitalize the human tie between them. And it should create a deeper sympathy for the many millions of people in Russia—men, women, and children—who are today on the verge of starvation and probably facing the most terrible winter in the annals of recorded history.

THE GREAT STAGE A SHOW

ORDINARY MEN have had cause for great comfort lately. Lord Northcliffe, who has been criticizing Mr. Lloyd-George and Lord Curzon, spent a few days with us in the course of a trip around the world. Sir Auckland Geddes, the British Ambassador, desiring to be pleasant to his distinguished countryman, arranged a dinner for him. And then the fun began; also some illumination of the inner mental workings of the great,